

# The Jewish GailyForward

Tevet + Sh'vat + Adar 5775 ■ January + February 2015

## Sha'ar Zahav's Identity Transition

BY KAREN SCHILLER

**T**hanks to a grant from the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, Sha'ar Zahav will be hiring a consultant to help us figure out the next step in our journey together as a congregation.

Sha'ar Zahav has long been a leader in developing Jewish LGBTQ thought. We have helped lead the way in opening the Jewish community to LGBTQ people, and, thanks in part to our work, the world has changed. LGBTQ people are now widely welcome in synagogues throughout the Bay Area. On the flip side, the percentage of non-LGBTQ families in our own congregation has steadily been rising. In the strategic planning report we wrote in 2012, we described ourselves for the first time as "a Jewish, progressive, diverse community that *honors and maintains our LGBTQ culture and history*" rather than simply as an LGBTQ synagogue. On our website and in some of our marketing materials, we've begun identifying ourselves as a "historically LGBTQ synagogue."

So we are faced with a seeming paradox: The responses to the strategic planning survey and listening campaign

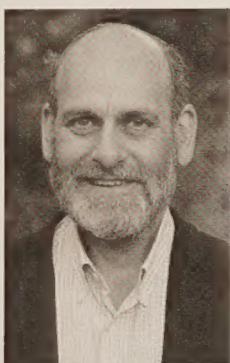
made it clear that we want LGBTQ culture and values to continue to inform and imbue our synagogue life yet "LGBTQ synagogue" no longer describes who we are. How do we synthesize the different aspects of our congregation so that we create a community that flourishes, grows and continues to have an impact on the broader community? What identity should we claim for ourselves?

Of course, we are not the only LGBT synagogue faced with these questions. A 2013 article in *Tablet Magazine* noted that, as mainstream acceptance has grown and the environment changes, LGBTQ synagogues around the country are looking at these same issues and questions.

This "identity transition" process will supplement and support the work that the Va'ad is doing on the initiatives designed during the Leadership Advance in July (see the November-December *JGF* President's Column for more information). The consultant will provide an outsider's eye, helping us to broaden our perspective and see possibilities that we might otherwise have missed.

We hope to have a consultant hired by mid- to late-January. If you have any ideas for a consultant or other thoughts, please email Karen Schiller at [kschillercsz@gmail.com](mailto:kschillercsz@gmail.com).

### Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's Scholar-in-Residence Alan Morinis of The Mussar Institute Friday and Saturday, January 23-24



Alan Morinis is the founder and Dean of The Mussar Institute and an active interpreter of the teachings and practices of the Mussar tradition, about which he regularly gives lectures and workshops. Born and raised in a culturally Jewish but non-observant home, he studied anthropology at Oxford University on a Rhodes scholarship. For the past sixteen years, the nearly-lost Jewish spiritual discipline of Mussar has been his passion, a journey recorded

in his book *Climbing Jacob's Ladder* (Broadway 2002). His guide to Mussar practice entitled *Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar*, was published in May 2007. His newest book on Mussar, *With Heart in Mind*, was published in August 2014.

#### What I Learned in India that Made Me Fall in Love with Judaism

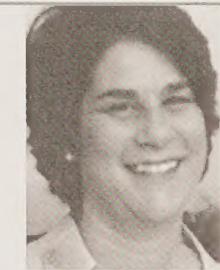
Morinis will co-lead Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday evening with Rabbi Angel and Mark Pressler. He will share his own journey of discovery and talk about how he became first a student and then a teacher of Mussar.

#### Torah through a Mussar Lens

As part of our Torah service on Saturday morning, Morinis will teach us how to approach the Torah through the gateway of a Mussar perspective, which seeks lessons in the weekly portion that can be applied in everyday life.

#### Shabbat lunch and afternoon text study

After services, we will consider something from the 16th century Mussar text, *Orchot Tzaddikim*, which is quite accessible to a beginner, yet offers profound insights into our lives, challenges and potential from a Mussar perspective.



# Building My Spiritual Muscle

**EACH OF US** has our own spiritual curriculum, according to world-renown Mussar teacher Alan Morinis, our upcoming Scholar-in-Residence (January 23-24).

Mussar is a centuries old Jewish body of teachings, a perspective, and a disciplined practice that provides distinctively Jewish answers to the sorts of questions people ask in life:

- Why do I cause pain to myself and others?
- What steps can I take to bring my life closer to my spiritual potential?

Mussar provides guidance in identifying our uniquely personal path of spiritual growth and offers practices to help bring about that growth.

Let me offer an example from my own life. As I traverse the transition trail from being the rabbi of this congregation to no longer carrying that privileged title, I find that the Tikkun Middot Project is helping me to build my spiritual muscle in expressing *HaKarat haTov*/Gratitude, *Anavah*/Humility, *Savlanut*/Patience, and *Bitachon*/Trust.

*HaKarat haTov*/Gratitude—Daily, sometimes multiple times a day, I am expressing my deepest appreciation to *HaMakom*, the Holy Place, Omnipresent One, for the interactions I get to have on account of being in this place, at this time in GLBTQIQ space and time as a Jew, as a woman, as queer, as a rabbi and a teacher and a witness to myriad manifestations of the divine working through us. *She-hechiyanu*—choosing to experience life as if I'm terminal...which I am, as are each one of us mortals, no less, no more.

*Anavah*/Humility—In the context of transitions, what can it mean to practice *anavah*? One definition I have been using is “knowing how much space is the right amount of space to take up at any given time.” Morinis suggests using a reminder phrase to help us pause and calibrate how much space we are taking up versus how much place is rightfully ours to inhabit. For some of us, we would do better “to put ourselves out there” a little more often, while others of us would do well “to tuck it in” a little more at times. Different situations call for different measures of energy and response. When I am interviewing for a new position, that is a time to

showcase myself and be more out there than I might otherwise feel comfortable expressing. Whereas in my personal relationships, if I were constantly publicizing my unique gifts and talents friends would quickly tire of me and wonder about such arrogance.

How do you express *anavah* in your work life?

Many of us have experienced being made to feel small and worthless, utterly invisible around our sexuality or gender presentation, especially among family of origin. Homophobia and transphobia impact our aspirations to claim our full space without hiding any part of our identity. Often, in an effort to feel seen and valued, we insinuate too much of ourselves and lose our balance. Together we can learn new ways to gently help ourselves and each other inhabit the space in a way that feels shared.

*Savlanut*/Patience—As defined by our teacher, *savlanut* means living and enduring a certain measure of discomfort for the sake of something yet to unfold that has a higher purpose. At times, I need to wrestle with my impulse to fix and resolve problems, conflicts and questions as instantly as they appear on my radar. I know that many situations are better addressed after consideration, fact gathering, consultation with others, and that just because I have a passionate, urgent and embodied response to the posing conundrum, does not mean I should act on it, then or ever.

As I begin to imagine the day when I will become a “former rabbi” of *Sha'ar Zahav*, I realize I have to exert even more patience with myself. There are questions that have no immediate answers. Learning to tolerate ambiguity better is a spiritual challenge and I am grateful I have new practices to help me along this journey.

*Bitachon*/Trust—Trust is something we cultivate over a lifetime. Building my trust is a daily exercise in part because my sense of being able to trust has been so damaged over the course of my life, as a lesbian, as a woman, as a Jew, as gender queer. I feel insecure relying on institutions to have my best interest in mind, or even to know what my self-interests include. Not being able to trust the institutions and organizations, which impact our lives so integrally, (continued on page 3)

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



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# Thank You for Showing Up!



**AS YOU KNOW,** Sha'ar Zahav has been hosting a listening campaign at various locations throughout the Bay Area. We started on Yom Kippur and recently held our last session. Many congregants have asked me why we had a listening campaign.

When I first became president, congregants came up to me with their comments. I heard that, although everything looks fine on the surface, members had concerns and fears. Many of you offered to be on a rabbi search committee. I heard that we need to find a rabbi who.... You can fill in the blank. Rather than just rely on the few folks who talked to me, I wanted to hear from as many members as possible. Are you upset? What concerns do you have about the congregation? What do you need from our clergy? Which of our identified values still ring true for you?

Leadership decided that a listening campaign made sense. We wanted to know the answers to the really big questions and I wanted to hear how you framed the answers to the questions. I appreciate all of the time that members gave to our leadership. Sara Haber, Lisa Katz, Ora Prochovnik, Karen Schiller and Ami Zusman formed a committee to manage the campaign. Erika Katske and Susan Lubeck created the structure and wrote the questions for the sessions. They also trained the facilitators. Our members hosted small group meetings in their homes, provided food (some even baked cookies!), and volunteered to facilitate and to take notes. Most importantly to me, a diverse group of members showed up for

the sessions. Thank you for your honesty and openness. We shared some of our thoughts about the most difficult issues that we face: specifically our identity and our pastoral needs.

I attended several sessions. To date I have read most of the submitted notes and all of the questionnaires that attendees filled out after the sessions. I have also followed up with congregants over coffee and by phone. Members of the Va'ad will be summarizing the contents of the notes from all of the sessions at our December Va'ad meeting. We will also prepare a written summary of the campaign and we will send it out to you. In addition, we plan to hold Town Hall meetings, beginning in February, to discuss the results of our listening campaign. We will do our best to answer your questions.

If you didn't have the opportunity to attend any of the listening campaign sessions, or if you have questions that won't wait until February, please feel free to contact either me or any member of the Va'ad. You can reach me at llowesf@gmail.com.

Our listening campaign and, of course, our finances, will help us make decisions about our future. Stay tuned and I look forward to keeping you informed as we move through this transition year.

## New Members

Jane Aceituno & Larisa Migachyov  
Andrew Berger  
Michael Peterson

## Building My Spiritual Muscle

(continued from page 2)

government, religious, educational, health, leaves us at a great psychic disadvantage. How can we draw strength and security to negotiate life's twists and turns while remaining grounded and pragmatic? Tikkun Middot practice is helping me manage my stress and worries about the future unknowns. I wish more people were accessing the insights and wisdom of Mussar.

Mindfulness practices and Mussar exercises combine to provide us with guidance and a disciplined approach to improving ourselves along Jewish ethical and spiritual lines. Don't miss this special opportunity to learn from a master and meet other members with similar yearnings.

## Task Force Leaders

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# Middle East Programs for 2015

**T**he Middle East Dialogue and Programming Committee (MEDPC) is pleased to announce a series of informative, exciting events for 2015. It is our hope that these events will help promote conversation and interest among members of our congregation on the very important topics of Israel and the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Our committee was first formed to follow up on CSZ's 2009 Israel survey, which showed that CSZ congregants hold a wide variety of beliefs and opinions when it comes to Israel and the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Our mission as a committee is to put on events that reflect the full range of these beliefs and opinions, as well as promote dialogue within our congregation and greater Jewish community. We believe that it's important for our community to stay informed about and come to understand a wide variety of opinions and viewpoints, not just listen to speakers who reinforce our own opinions.

There will be a presentation on March 3 about the relationship between US Jews and Israel, led by Professor Marc Dollinger, chair of the Jewish Studies Department at San Francisco State University. There is a wide variety of opinion

about Israel among Jews in the US and we look forward to Professor Dollinger exploring this subject further.

In the spring, MEDPC will be hosting a panel on the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement. Our committee is working on bringing together a variety of speakers to talk about the different viewpoints people hold about this movement. Our list of speakers currently includes Israeli feminist activist Dalit Baum, Rabbi David Cooper from Kehilla Community Synagogue in Piedmont and UC Berkeley Jewish Studies Professor Ron Hendel.

We will also be hosting a presentation on Palestinian politics. MEDPC has invited Professor Omar Dajani to come and discuss some of the different political parties and grassroots movements which are currently active in the occupied Palestinian territories, Israel and the Palestinian diaspora. Professor Dajani is a Palestinian-American law professor at University of the Pacific and a former member of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)'s Negotiations Support Unit.

We hope these events will help inform our members and promote healthy, respectful conversation on how we can build lasting peace in the Middle East. We look forward to seeing you at our events!

## Successful High Holy Days Appeal!

**BY AMI ZUSMAN AND MICHAEL RICE,  
5775 HIGH HOLY DAYS APPEAL CO-CHAIRS**

**T**hank you to everyone who made our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services so beautiful and inspiring, including all those who helped provide the financial resources for our services and programs by generously supporting Sha'ar Zahav's High Holy Days fundraising appeal. A special thank you to Julia Weber, Allan Gold and Kendra Froshman, who shared their personal stories of what CSZ has meant for them and encouraged us to make CSZ stronger and more welcoming by contributing and joining our community.

We raised over \$77,000 in pledges during the High Holy Days period, including approximately \$48,000 in High Holy Days sponsorships and other contributions, plus approximately \$29,000 in guest tickets. As he has done each year, Walter Leiss generously sponsored our Erev Rosh Hashanah oneg and Yom Kippur break-fast. In addition, High Holy Days sponsorships and donations allowed us to cover our costs for renting the San Francisco Scottish Rite Masonic Center, providing childcare, beautifying the sanctuary with flowers and greenery, as well as other costs. Remaining funds will support CSZ's general expenses.

Michael Rice, who with his wife Jane Rice, has been a CSZ member since 2012, started working on HHD fundraising in 2013. "Michael Chertok gave me a great briefing and a list, but then I was the one who had to call members I didn't know well. Everyone knew why I was calling, and one said 'You're really brave to do this!' People really stretched to help. I made calls again in 2014, with a bit less angst. Fundraising is always a challenge, but I see the outcome in the moving High Holy Days services, the festive programs, and the day-to-day functions at CSZ."

Although we wish we didn't need to talk about money during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, our annual High Holy Days fundraising appeal has become an important part of the way we meet CSZ's expenses. Membership dues cover less than half of the costs to support our rabbi, cantor, educator and other staff, our building, and all of CSZ's other programs and activities. So in order to cover our remaining expenses, we reach out to you, our members and friends, through our High Holy Days appeal and our upcoming Rainbow Campaign, as well as through special dedicated campaigns, such as those to support our cantor and Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer. Thank you again for supporting this community through your generosity of time, funds and spirit.

# Our Legacy Community Truly a Legacy

BY DEBORAH UDIN

Jews have lived in New Orleans since 1759, but the community has always been small and tight-knit in a city where Catholicism with a heavy dose of Baptist is the predominant religion. While my early Jewish education helped develop my moral compass and basic values, it was the 1960s and the civil rights movement that shaped my soul and spirit of *tikkun olam*.

I discovered Congregation Sha'ar Zahav in the 1970s when I moved to San Francisco to find and define myself. It was an unexpected connection. I wasn't particularly religious as the orthodox side of my family considered my upbringing in a Southern, Reform congregation to be more like being raised in a church than synagogue. While the charm and grace of the South was soothing, the bigotry and racism was intolerable. When I found CSZ, I realized how much my heritage, both southern and Jewish, defined me.

As my experiences working on CSZ committees, from oneg prep to fundraising to restoring the building at 290



Dolores, grew, I was in awe of my fellow congregants, their passion, commitment, humor and genuine devotion to building a community with outreach to LGBT Jews inspired by the values and traditions of our Jewish heritage.

My legacy pledge was a no-brainer. As I've seen the congregation flourish, the same level of commitment and passion continues with an out-

reach to everyone seeking traditional worship in a non-traditional environment. This is truly a legacy of which I am proud and honored. The foundation of CSZ is so strong; my desire to see it around for many generations will surely come true.

# My Journey to Judaism

BY PAUL PENINGER

Albert Einstein once startled an audience by announcing: "I'm sorry I was born a Jew." The audience was shocked until Einstein continued: "Because it deprived me of the privilege of choosing to be a Jew." (From *Conversion to Judaism*, Lawrence J. Epstein, 1994)

When the *JGF* editors invited me to write about my personal journey as a convert to Judaism, I have to admit that I was somewhat loathe to write about something so personal and also complex. The truth is that I don't have a succinct way of describing the many ways in which I'm drawn to Judaism in all of its ethical, intellectual and spiritual dimensions. So, I think rather than try, I'll tell a very brief story.

The radical fairies recently taught me the concept of "woo," by which I think they mean the mystical or ecstatic experience of spiritual revelation. My journey to Judaism started with a moment of what might be described as Jewish "woo." Around 10 years ago, I was on a yoga retreat in Hawaii and had brought along a number of Jewish texts and Hebrew language study materials to read (I've always been a bit of a



spiritual searcher and a linguaphile). Perhaps I was feeling especially open due to the environment of the retreat center, but in the midst of exploring the aleph bet and reading about Judaism, I had an intense moment of clarity in which I realized that Judaism was a path that I *was meant* to explore. Moreover, I realized that I could not complete this journey without being completely enmeshed in Jewish life.

From that moment on, I began to the best of my ability to live according to the Jewish calendar and immerse myself in Jewish community. Joining the covenant formally was a natural part of this process and I am very grateful and honored to have made my journey with the help of the Sha'ar Zahav community. Judaism is such an integral part of my life that I sometimes forget that I'm a convert, but I feel fortunate to have had the privilege of making that choice.

# Introducing the B'nei Mitzvah



## Jazmine Esther Best-Leung

Jazmine Best-Leung, daughter of Larry Best and Ming Leung, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on January 10.

Jazmine lives in Alameda and attends Alameda Community Learning Center. She loves all animals (especially wolves) and music. She enjoys almost all foods, but particularly obsesses over burritos; she could live on them alone. Her favorite colors are black, blue and purple. She enjoys hanging out with friends and making people laugh. During her free time, she also enjoys reading, sketching and skateboarding.

Jazmine is really looking forward to her Bat Mitzvah and appreciates all the help and guidance from her mentor, Julia Weber, as well as the support she received from Rebecca Weiner and Rebecca's dog Manny.



## Langston Garvey Bealum

Langston Bealum, son of Dena Plotkin, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on February 7.

Langston was born in San Francisco, but grew up in a huge house in Los Angeles with 13 housemates. He is now back in San Francisco where he is in the 8th grade at the Sterne School and enjoys being on the tennis team. In his spare time, he likes to play games, especially the *Borderlands* games, *Magic: The Gathering* and *Heartstone*. He also enjoys woodworking.

He has won ribbons for his skills at tennis, and was also awarded the Empathic and Peacekeeping award by his previous school, which donated a paper crane to the Children's Peace Monument at the Peace Memorial Park, in Hiroshima, on his behalf.

Langston enjoys learning at Sha'ar Zahav and is looking forward to becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

# The Tikkun Middot Project Chesed and Kavod

BY ANN BAUMAN

"Don't you see?" Reb Zusya responded. "When I stand before that heavenly court, they're not going to ask me why I wasn't more like Moses! They're going to ask me why wasn't I more like Zusya!" That's Mussar's purpose: to help us become the fullest version of the unique soul we already are.

from *Climbing Jacob's Ladder* by Alan Morinis

Mussar is the study of the character traits that impact how we treat ourselves, others and the world around us. In Hebrew these traits are called *middot*; one trait is a *middah*. Mussar aims to illuminate the causes of suffering and shows us how to realize our highest spiritual potential to create an everyday experience infused with happiness, trust, and love. Classes in the *middot* are being offered as part of the Tikkun Middot project at CSZ. The next *midot* we will study are *chesed* (often translated as loving-kindness) and *kavod* (honor/respect). We will also have the special opportunity in January to study with Alan Morinis, Founder and Dean of the Mussar Institute, while he is at Sha'ar Zahav as a scholar-in-residence (see page 1 for more information). Here are some thoughts on *chesed* and *kavod* from Dr. Morinis's writings.

### Chesed

In *Everyday Holiness*, Dr. Morinis noted: "...black threads are woven into the very fabric of every life. No wonder, then, that the Jewish tradition elevates deeds of loving-kindness (*chesed*)

to the highest possible ranking among soul-traits. Only some problems have solutions, while all of them are alleviated by the loving response of those around us."

Although we may hold warm thoughts in our hearts or wish each other well, that isn't enough. We are meant to offer real sustenance to one another. The ways in which we can do that are innumerable: we can offer our money, time, love, empathy, service, an open ear, manual assistance, a letter written, a call made, and on.

Mussar tells us that action is the key to opening the heart. It is too easy to think good thoughts and say the right things while continuing to be stuck in the same old ways. Action is required for the heart to learn and open, setting off a chain reaction of hearts opening and connecting, leading right up to openness and connection to God.

### Kavod

Honor, respect and dignity (*kavod*) are due to each and every human being, not because of the greatness of their achievements or how they have behaved, but because they are home to a soul that is inherently holy. Mussar teaches us not to seek honor for ourselves, but to go out of our way to honor others. We act with honor when we listen carefully to the needs of another and respond; when we look beneath surface differences to see the shared ground upon which all beings stand. Honoring others in this way does not mean giving up the power and practice of exercising judgment, but puts the focus on moving away from unwise, useless, habitual and even destructive acts of judgment.

# Who Will Say Kaddish For Me?



AS I WRITE this *JGF* article, I am sitting shiva for our member George Mintzer, and it is World AIDS Day. Both of these events may not have a big impact on you or your family, but they speak to the history and legacy of Sha'ar Zahav in a profound way.

In 1991, I began working as a Jewish educator at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's Kadimah (as the religious school was then called) under the guidance of Phyllis Mintzer, our first educator. At a time when many gay and lesbian people still lived at the margins of the Jewish community, Phyllis took on the role not only of mentor, but of accepting Jewish mother for myself and for so many in our community. Phyllis, for whom our school is now named, also had a love of Judaism that was infectious and highly engaging, transmitting Torah through joy. George was her husband and was an equal supporter of the school and of Sha'ar Zahav.

Throughout the eighties, the Sha'ar Zahav community was profoundly impacted by the loss many of us experienced when our families rejected us due to homophobia. Also during this time, dozens of members lost their lives to AIDS and the grief that our community felt was painful and intense. It was a heartbreak time, a time of fear and hatred. This was

the shaken and hurting community that Phyllis and George came into at Sha'ar Zahav. Phyllis, with her gentle and committed George at her side, threw herself into creating a school at Sha'ar Zahav where every student would feel welcome and social justice saturated the core curriculum. Phyllis and George, with their own multicultural family and open door policy, modeled the Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel quality of praying with their feet. They put their whole beings into living their social justice values and always with a deep core of Jewish values. I don't think we can say enough about the generations of people who came to Sha'ar Zahav and engaged with this family and how healing this relationship was.

In the eighties and nineties, when Jewish LGBT people were afraid to come out of the closet, when people living with HIV and AIDS lived with the fear of rejection and prejudice, our Jewish community was a place in which we would not have to hide or feel shame about who we were or who we loved. At the time, the Union for Reform Judaism was circulating a poster of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. It read, "Who Will Say Kaddish For Me?" Phyllis and George helped to make our community a place in which every person would be seen, loved and remembered.

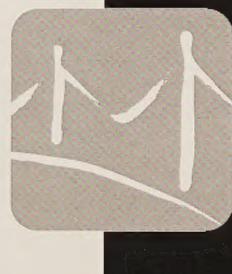
Twenty years later, Phyllis and now George and their *yidisher neshamas* (Jewish souls) are gone, (continued on page 10)

FAMILY LAW

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# Journey to Judaism

## A Discussion Group

Facilitated by Ora Prochovnik and Rose Katz

**Six Mondays (the second Monday of each month), 7-9 pm at CSZ:  
January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8**

This discussion group will explore issues that arise for people who are considering, are in the process of, or have recently completed, converting to Judaism. Those with a Jewish parent (or parents), but raised with little or no Jewish experience and are interested in exploring their connection to Judaism are also welcome to attend. Topics will include questions of identity, community, and family. This group is not an introduction to Judaism course, but rather a place to ask questions and discuss issues with others who are also on this journey.

**Please note:** In order to create a comfortable environment, this group will not be open to new participants after the second session in February.

There is no charge for this group, but pre-registration is required. For further information, or to register, please contact Rose Katz at 415-567-3327 ext. 706 (rkatz@jewishlearningworks.org), or the synagogue office at 415-861-6932 (regina@shaarzahav.org).



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**HHD Pledges 5775**

Tamara Abrams of the Grossberg-

Abrams Foundation

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Wayne Bender

Ray Bernstein

Mary L. Bianco in honor of Eve Meyer.

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Elliot Block

Diana Buchbinder &amp; Jeane Redsecker

James Carlson

Sharon Carmen

Paul Cohen

Susan Colson and Maureen Anderson

Aaron Danzig

Linda Edelstein &amp; Marion Gillen

Louise Fischer

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Marshall Gold

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Joan Goldman

Jerome Goldstein

Jo Ellen Green Kaiser &amp; Zoe Kaiser

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Judith Huerta

Jean Katz

Rose Katz

Ron Lezell

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Laura Lowe

Mark Mackler &amp; Wendell Choo

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Richard Meyerson

Florence &amp; Steve Nacamulli in memory of Noah &amp; Aaron Nacamulli.

Barry &amp; Tirtza Pearl

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Ora Prochovnick

Arthur Slepian &amp; Gerry Llamado

Sharyn Saslafsky

Bernard Schertzer

Magen Solomon

Deborah Udin &amp; Lucy Cefalu

Dana Vinicoff

Judith Wolfe in appreciation of Richard Meyerson &amp; his lasting contributions to Sha'ar Zahav.

Ami Zusman in honor of Laura Lowe &amp; all of the CSZ HHD volunteers.

**General Fund Donations made in memory of Fay G. Cohen**

Allan Berenstein, James Carlson, Arthur B. Cohen, Steve Elman, Howard Freedman, Avraham Giannini, Allan Gold, Diane Green, Alice Harron, Ira Hirschfield, Eric Keitel &amp; Aaron Cooper, Rachel and Warren Kleban, Mollie and Dennis Kleban, Ron Lezell, Marc Lipschutz, Michael Litchman, Eve Meyer, Nancy Meyer, Esther Milich, Jeffrey Piade, Alice Rubenfeld, Sharyn Saslafsky, Karen Schiller, Yo Schneeman, Arthur Slepian &amp; Gerry Llamado, Robert Tat, Steve Weiner, Ami Zusman

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Edward &amp; Rose Berman in honor of Barbara Cymrot &amp; Andrea Kress's wedding.

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Ron Lezell in memory of Laura Lloyd and Gian-Piero Spagnolo.

Eve Meyer in memory of Hans &amp; Marion Meyer.

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Andrew Ramer in honor of Regina Wurst, Carrie Kwong, Ben Hansen &amp; Joe MacDonald.

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**Rainbow 2014**

Tom Lakritz Steve Polksky/Polsky Family Charitable Fund

**Phyllis Mintzer Education Fund**

Allan Berenstein in memory of Phyllis Mintzer.

Allan Berenstein in honor of Zach Fineberg's bar mitzvah.

**The Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Events Fund**

Allan Berenstein in honor of Evan Arnold-Gordon.

Jon Funk &amp; John Arnold in memory of Fay G. Cohen, Osa Skotting MacLane and Gian-Piero Spagnolo.

**Cantor's Discretionary Fund**

Allan Berenstein in memory of Gian-Piero Spagnolo.

James Carlson in memory of Gian-Piero Spagnolo &amp; Rita Roginski.

Paul Cohen

Paul Cohen &amp; Bob Guterman in memory of Gian-Piero Spagnolo.

Kelly Thiemann &amp; Ann Bauman

Ami Zusman in honor of Cantor Sharon Bernstein.

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Paul Cohen

Eve Meyer in honor of her Yom Kippur aliyah.

Helen Schlossberg Cohen in honor of Rabbi Camille Shira Angel.

Arthur Slepian in honor of Hilary Zaid.

**Siddur Bookplates**

Allan Berenstein in memory of Fay G. Cohen.

Marvin &amp; Judith Milich in memory of Fay G. Cohen.

Beth Rubenstein &amp; Evan Marckiewicz.

# Cantor Sharon Bernstein Returns to Music in the Mishkan!

Our own Cantor Sharon Bernstein will return to Music in the Mishkan this season, presenting a Yiddish folk song cycle entitled *Froyenlibe un Lebn* (Women's Lives and Loves). Randy Weiss and The Bridge Players are delighted to once again welcome Sharon and her golden voice to the chamber series, which is celebrating its 16th season! The two concerts are March 8 and May 31; mark your calendars.

Other highlights of the season include piano quintets by Schumann and Dohnanyi, plus Jewish Czech composer Erwin Schulhoff on March 8, and Brahms's viola sonata and Fauré's violin sonata on May 31.

Both concerts begin at 4:00 pm, followed by a wine and cheese reception. You can order tickets by calling the office at 415-861-6932, or by finding a link on the CSZ website ([www.shaarzahav.org](http://www.shaarzahav.org)). The full programs are listed below. Don't miss these beautiful concerts in our lovely sanctuary!

## Sunday, March 8 "Springtime Fives"

Piano Quintet No.1 in C minor, Op.1—Ernst von Dohnanyi

Five Pieces for String Quartet—Erwin Schulhoff

Piano Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 4—Robert Schumann

## Sunday, May 31 "Sonatas and Songs"

Sonata in E-flat Major for Viola and Piano, Op. 120, No. 2—Johannes Brahms

Froyenlibe un Lebn (Women's Lives and Loves)—Yiddish Folk Song Cycle

Sonata No. 1 in A major for Violin and Piano, Op. 13—Gabriel Fauré

## Who Will Say Kaddish For Me?

(continued from page 7)

along with countless friends and community members who lost their lives to AIDS. We have a responsibility to remember those we have lost and the impact they have had on our lives, the impact they had by fighting anti-Semitism and homophobia. We and our children and my students are the beneficiaries of the better world they helped to create. In order to honor their memories, we must fight for justice.

In the words of the Talmud: "It is not upon you to finish the work, but you are not free to ignore it." (Mishna, Ethics,

2:21). If we want to raise up the memory of so many people who helped to build what Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is, then we have to continue to pursue justice and teach our children to do the same. That is why at Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer we take time to make sure that our students understand the Jewish response to Ferguson, to economic injustice and toward hate and xenophobia in general. We stand on the shoulders of people with huge hearts and great chutzpah and we are lucky to have had them as a mentors and guides in tikkun olam.

May all their memories be for a blessing.

### October 10-11

Flowers and the Saturday kiddush sponsored by the Rubenstein-Markiewicz family in honor of Sulmi's bat mitzvah.

Oneg sponsored by Ruth Finkelstein in honor of Lisa and Sarah's aufruf.

### October 17-18

Oneg sponsored by James Carlson in memory of his grandfathers, Arthur Carlson and Filippo Tuzzolino.

### October 24-25

Oneg sponsored by Michael and Jane Rice in memory of Michael's father, James Rice, and Jane's mother, Corinne Cornish.

Flowers sponsored in appreciation of the support of Herman and Gloria Geller by the Herron-Geller Family. Saturday kiddush luncheon sponsored by Jane Herron in honor of her granddaughter Sofia's bat mitzvah.

### November 7-8

Oneg sponsored by Kathleen and Ernest Friedlander with condolences to Paul Cohen and Bob Guterman, and in memory of Fay G. Cohen.

### November 14-15

Flowers sponsored by Patsy Weber and Barbara Fineberg in honor of their grandson Zachary Fineberg's bar mitzvah.

Kiddush luncheon sponsored by Julia Weber and Charles Fineberg in honor of their son Zachary's bar mitzvah.

## Sha'ar Zahav Members Who Have Died in Recent Months

William Korthof on October 4, 2014  
George Mintzer on November 29, 2014

### Our condolences to

Steve and Bob Nacamulli on the loss of their aunt, Angela Sidelman.  
Elliott Sprehn on the loss of his mother, Leas'sa Lund Sprehn.  
Maxima and Oona Alexandra on the loss of their aunt, Loreen Villaluna.  
Paul Cohen and Bob Guterman on the loss of their mother and mother-in-law, Fay G. Cohen.  
Joan Lefkowitz, Stacey Shuster, Josh and Mara on the loss of their mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, Laura Lloyd.  
David Kaiser, Jo Ellen Green Kaiser, and Zoe Kaiser on the loss of their father, father-in-law and grandfather, Frank Kaiser.  
Sarita Groisser on the loss of her father Leon Groisser.  
Francesco Spagnolo, Ariel Bernstein Spagnolo

and Cantor Sharon Bernstein on the loss of their father, grandfather and father-in-law, Gian-Piero Spagnolo.

Karen Segal and Lilah Segal Angel on their loss of their mother and grandmother, Osa Skotting MacLane.

Ellie Cohen, Michal Goralsky, Leah and Asaf Goralsky Cohen on the loss of their mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, Helen Mae Schlossberg Cohen.

Scott Kramer on the loss of his aunt, Vivian Kramer.

### Naches

Mazel Tov to Sulmi Rubenstein-Markiewicz on her bat mitzvah.  
Mazel Tov to Sofia Herron Geller on her bat mitzvah.  
Mazel Tov to Zachary Fineberg on his bar mitzvah.  
Mazel tov to Randy Weiss and Craig Shear on their wedding.  
The Sha'ar Zahav and First Mennonite Joint Greening Committee received an Honorable Mention in the Education category at the Cool Climate awards ceremony hosted by California

Interfaith Power and Light on November 12 in San Francisco. Mazel tov to Andrew Ramer and the whole team!

## Member Yahrzeits

### January

3 Aaron Nacamulli  
9 Jerome Davis  
14 Harry Clint Bigglestone  
18 Keith Fenton  
20 George Ash  
26 Cheryl Orvis  
27 Bill Ashley-Dobbin  
28 Nathan Eli Weinstein

### February

1 Steven Richter  
2 Stephen Walters  
4 John Atteridge  
6 Ronald Wilmot  
10 Helga Hahn  
14 Ziggy Gimnicher  
14 Allen Harris  
14 Barbara Rosenblum  
15 Allan Ellis  
17 Rabbi Jason Gaber  
23 Leland Vogel  
25 Evelyn Slenker

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